



NEWS RELEASE

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

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Tennessee First in the Nation to Approve New “Call-Before-You-Dig” Number

Nashville, Tennessee – Tennessee has become the first state in the U.S. to approve the use of a new “Call-Before-You-Dig” dialing code aimed specifically at protecting the State’s underground utilities infrastructure from harm.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruled in March of this year to assign the 8-1-1 number to the effort of utility infrastructure damage prevention, but left technical and operational issues of implementation to the states. On August 8th, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) granted the petition of Tennessee One Call System, Inc. requesting allocation of the abbreviated dialing code of “8-1-1” as the telephone number persons are to call before beginning excavation or demolition activities.

“The foundation of preventing damage to Tennessee’s utility infrastructure is to encourage businesses and citizens to remember to call before engaging in excavation work,” says TRA Chairman Ron Jones. “This new, user-friendly telephone number will encourage such action thereby helping to save lives and safeguard our valuable network of underground utilities.”

Adds TRA Director Pat Miller: “the one-call system has been of tremendous benefit to persons involved in excavating activities. And for the TRA to be the first in the nation to approve an abbreviated dialing code speaks to our further commitment to consumer safety and the preservation of our utility infrastructure.”

Tennessee law requires persons who plan to do excavation work to notify the Tennessee One Call System at (800) 351-1111 in advance of digging below ground. The new abbreviated 8-1-1 number is intended to replace the existing ten digit toll-free number, which is also operated by Tennessee One Call System, Inc.

Tennessee One Call System, Inc. is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to act as an advance notification service to operators of underground facilities anywhere within the state. To find out when the 8-1-1 number will be operable in your area, contact your local telephone service provider.

For more information about Tennessee One-Call, visit the TRA's web site at www.state.tn.us/tra.

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